



555 North Kensington Avenue
La Grange Park, Illinois
60526-5592 USA

Tel: 708/ 352-6611
E-Mail: NUCLEUS@ans.org
<http://www.ans.org>
Fax: 708/ 352-0499

RECEIVED

FEB 01 2000

STATEMENT BY HARRY BRADLEY

I am Harry Bradley, Executive Director of the American Nuclear Society, which was established in 1954 and has more than 11,000 individual members worldwide. Its international headquarters is in La Grange Park, Illinois.

1 I am here to remind the panel that common sense dictates it is better to safely manage nuclear waste at one central location rather than at many sites across the nation. The Yucca Mountain Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) finds that a central repository is far safer than having spent fuel stored at 72 commercial sites in 36 states.

Legislation enacted in 1982 provided that in exchange for payments into the Nuclear Waste Fund by electricity consumers, the Department of Energy would begin taking spent fuel from utilities by January 31, 1998. That date came and went with no acceptance of spent fuel by the DOE, in spite of the fact that three federal courts have reaffirmed that the DOE has a legal obligation to accept spent fuel. It should also be noted that consumers of electricity generated by nuclear energy have committed \$16 billion to the Nuclear Waste Fund to pay for the repository.

The findings of the DEIS support moving forward with the Yucca Mountain project. Deep geologic disposal is supported universally by the scientific community as the best way to store spent fuel. There is no scientific reason for the government not to honor its obligation to electricity consumers and move aggressively on readying Yucca Mountain for acceptance of spent fuel.

As a citizens of IL, I support moving forward with the Yucca Mountain repository so that the acceptance of spent fuel can begin as quickly as possible, thereby reaffirming the contract between the federal government and nuclear utility ratepayers.

FACTS ON ILLINOIS:

There are 11 nuclear units in the State producing electricity. Nationally, nuclear power supplies 20 percent of electricity production. In 1998, nuclear energy supplied 42 percent of the electricity generated in Illinois. Since 1983, consumers of electricity from IL nuclear plants have committed more than \$2.1 billion, including interest and one-time fees, into the Nuclear Waste Fund.